



The Radiogram

Volume 9 No 4

Winter 2000

Happy New Year to all the hard-working volunteer communicators.

Mt. Rainier Lahar Exercise After-Action Report – Two Perspectives

by Paul Dunn, KC7QNQ and Marina Zuetell, N7LSL

The Mt Rainier Lahar Exercise took place on October 10, 2000, in both Pierce and King counties. The scenario simulated the volcanic collapse of the west flank of Mt. Rainier, with resulting mudflows and floods inundating the Puyallup and Carbon River valleys.

Pierce County Emergency Management was the lead agency, with multiple other agencies and jurisdictions participating in the coordinated exercise. King County agencies and jurisdictions participated in a supporting response role, to receive evacuees and provide mutual aid assistance.

The Medical Services Communications Teams in both counties participated in a limited role to test communications between participating hospitals and the respective EOCs. There were some interesting results.

Paul Dunn, KC7QNQ, newly appointed Emergency Coordinator for Medical Services Communications in Pierce County, provides the following report:

Pierce County Lahar Drill Background:

This drill was conducted by the Pierce County Office of Emergency Preparedness, and was designed mainly to test county agencies' ability to react to a Lahar/Eruption event on Mount Rainier. The major focus of the drill was to test agencies' ability to react to events which affected the roads, highways, and river valleys of Pierce County. The county itself had no plans to include hospitals or health care organizations in the drill, since their rationale was that initial impacts of such an event on health care facilities would be minimal.

Because the ARES MST organization in Pierce County

(Continued on page 3)

King County Airport – Boeing Field Holds Triennial Plane Crash Exercise

King County Airport, Boeing Field, conducted the Triennial FAA Airport exercise on September 24, 2000. Months of planning went into the effort, with multiple agencies participating.

The scenario involved a Boeing 727 with 34 people aboard. The plane lost control on final approach and crashed on the runway at Boeing Field. The plane broke into two sections. Fuel was spilled and there were multiple casualties.

King County Airport Rescue and Fire responded, as did the fire and police departments from Seattle and Tukwila. Boeing Security also responded. The American Red Cross, the Police Chaplains unit and others were called to the scene to support rescue personnel, victims, families, and airport operations.

Auxiliary Communications teams, including the King County Medical Services Team were called out by King County Dispatch to support the field communication needs of the hospitals receiving patients, the chaplains, Red Cross, and airport control.

A Communications trailer was set up as Net Control Station in the parking lot of the Veterans Hospital on Beacon Hill. This location was an excellent operating position with good radio coverage to the multiple hospitals, the airfield, and the other auxiliary communication teams.

Simplex frequencies were used fairly successfully, with only minor problems in the terminal building itself.

Some interesting coordination techniques were tried during this exercise with good results. Several different communication systems were used simultaneously which required a lot of coordination. Harborview Medi-

(Continued on page 3)

**Training Meeting
Personal Preparedness
Joanne Jordan
Bellevue Emergency
Management**

**Saturday, Feb. 3
0900-1130
Bellevue EOC
115021 Main St
Bellevue**

See Page 8 for details

ARES Medical Services Team Mission Statement

The role of the Medical Services Communications Team, affiliated with the Western Washington Amateur Radio Emergency Service, is to provide vital emergency communications between medical facilities in the community, local governments, and other emergency management agencies during disaster situations, when normal communications are inoperable or disrupted, utilizing amateur radio voice or digital networks, and other appropriate communications media.

The use of this amateur radio network and team is intended strictly for emergency purposes, to support the medical needs of the community-at-large. This network and team will be exercised on a regular basis to conduct training of appropriately licensed amateur radio operators, and to educate the medical community and other user groups and agencies on utilization of amateur radio during emergency situations.

MST TEAM NEWS

Western Washington Emergency Medical Services
d.b.a. W. WA Medical Services Communications Team, is incorporated under **IRS TID 91-1869349**.

Training Officer – Judy Dotson, KD7EUH, has accepted the position of Training Officer for the Medical Services Team. She is hard at work already, having put together the program for Feb. 3, and is now working on the rest of the year. She will be working with the Seattle ACS Training Officer, and others to pull together a great series of courses for the year. Congratulations, Judy, and thank you for stepping up to the challenge,



Web Pages of Interest

City of Seattle Emergency Management and ACS:
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/eoc/acs/>

ARRL Emergency Coordinators Certification program
–<http://www.arrl.org/cce>

Washington State ARES/RACES
<http://www.sinclair.net/ares/>

NEW!
Emergency Communications
<Http://www.arrl.org/field/emergency/>
great reference and resource site for all kinds of emergency communications information, weather bulletins, directories, etc

ARES/RACES Oregon Packet Web site:
<http://www.arespacket.com/>

Team Jackets Available!!

New jacket supplier!

The new team jackets are navy blue with jade lining and trim lightweight shells, suitable for indoor or summer wear. The team logo is custom-embroidered on the back, and your name and call-sign on the front.

We have negotiated a special price of \$68.00, if we order 4 at a time.

Please contact Marina Zuetell, N7LSL for ordering information or pick up a form at the next training meeting.

TEAM SHIRTS AND HATS

Shirts and hats, with the new team logo are available for sale now. Golf shirts are available in navy or natural, S to XL, for \$23; XXL \$25. Navy blue baseball caps – \$12. Optional customization is additional. Call or E-mail for additional information or an order form.



The Radiogram

**Newsletter of the W.
WA. Medical Services
Teams**

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Communications Team
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(Comments or address changes
to above address)

ARES of King County has a new Web page with lots of links to local and regional teams.
<http://kb7tbf.com>

Dave Robbins, K1TTT's technical reference page. Excellent source of all kinds of useful radio and technical info:

<http://www.berkshire.net/~robbins/technote/techref.html>

.Lahar Exercise Report*(Continued from page 1)*

is in a rebuilding mode, it was decided that participation in this drill would be designed to test simplex propagation patterns between facilities within the county, using the station established at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup as net control and base of operations.

Event Summary:

The Net Control Station at Good Samaritan Hospital was activated at 0900 operating simplex on 146.480 MHz (MST South Simplex Net Frequency).

After calling for check-ins, the following facilities checked in:

St Francis: KC7GE

Auburn: KC7LTL

Harrison: Relayed through Auburn

MultiCare: KC7QNQ – MST Mobile

Bed Count information, signal reports and hospital specific information were collected at this time.

While continuing to call for check-ins, KC7QNQ, using the tactical call of Pierce County MST Mobile traveled to various sites within Pierce County to test propagation and collect other check in information from other participating facilities.

The first site traveled to – Portland Ave at Highway 512 (North 47° 09.438 West 122° 24.222) allowed for relayed communications between Good Samaritan Hospital and the Pierce County EOC – manned by N7RHZ and Madigan Army Medical Center.

The Second site traveled to, Allenmore Medical Center in Tacoma allowed for solid simplex communications between Good Samaritan, Auburn and St. Francis, but no link to the Pierce County EOC or Madigan Army Medical Center.

Following simplex testing between Allenmore Medical Center and Good Samaritan Hospital, MST Mobile returned to Good Samaritan via the Puyallup River Valley road. The sim-

*(Continued on page 5)***Boeing Field Plane Crash Exercise***(Continued from page 1)*

cal Center, Hospital Control, received patient triage information from the paramedics in the field, via phone and 800 MHz radio. Harborview then allocated patients to receiving hospitals all over the county via Amateur Radio. This normally would be done via 800 MHz and HEAR radio systems.

Net Control station Med-Net, functioned as a filter, and information manager for the bigger picture, while Harborview only had to deal with prehospital and hospital resources. When Harborview needed to assign patient transfers, Med-Net made the contact and then Harborview sent the necessary information directly to the operator at the receiving hospital, so that the middle-man relay was eliminated. This process was very efficient and effective.

Med-Net was able to manage the net, handle any health and welfare traffic, and EOC messages, and track what was happening in the various areas of the incident, and coordinate the relay of information between hospitals.

Nine of the sixteen hospitals in the county participated in the exercise. No patients were physically transferred away from the airport, but were field-triaged and loaded into ambulances and transported across the airfield. The hospitals simulated patient reception with bed assignments and staff briefings, and working with the Amateur Radio operators assigned to each facility.

Unfortunately, the computer log kept by Med-Net was damaged, so specific message details were lost.

The team which supported the chaplains, Red Cross, and airport personnel was underutilized, as the emergency responders decided to ignore or eliminate the portion of the scenario which involved victim and family support. The radio operators were able to shadow their respective assignees, but there was very little message traffic to be relayed. We were able to demonstrate that we

could respond and fulfill our assignments in a prompt and professional manner.

This exercise was the annual Simulated Emergency Test for the King County Medical Services Team. A total of 23 radio operators (from both MST and ACS teams) volunteered 91 hours of time, and drove a total of 560 miles. Radio operators interacted with about 18 different agencies and jurisdictions (including the hospitals) . Mission # 00-T-478

This exercise was a very impressive example of communications profes-



KB7TBF Comm Trailer

sionalism and successful training. Congratulations to all who participated for a job very well done.

ARRL Continuing Education Course Fills Up Immediately

The first on-line introductory course for emergency communications filled up, and more courses will be offered soon. Registration for future courses will be announced soon. To be added to the mailing list, contact CCE@arrl.org.

The ARRL announced that the on-line course will be offered as an in-person class at several sites around the US in 2001, and that more advanced classes will be added. These are: Level II: NCS; and Level III: Emergency Communications Management/Administration Issues. There is a registration fee for it.

To review the course outline see the Web site at: <http://www.arrl.org/cce>

Home Fire Safety

By: Chris Floyd
Disaster Services Director
Capital Area Chapter,
American Red Cross

Fire is one of the most common disasters and causes more deaths than any other type of disaster. But fire does not have to be deadly if you take precautions and have an escape plan. Please be serious about the responsibility of planning for and practicing what to do in case of a fire. Get together with household members to discuss and finalize a personalized Fire Plan. Practice your plan frequently. Here are some guidelines you can use in preparing your emergency plan...

Make your home fire safe

- ? Smoke detectors save lives. Install smoke detectors outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your residence. Keep new batteries on hand.
- ? Use the test button to check each smoke detector once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace batteries at least once a year.
- ? Have a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen. Make sure it is properly charged.
- ? Use the gauge or test button to check proper pressure. If the unit is low on pressure, damaged, or corroded, replace it or have it professionally serviced. Get training from the fire department on how to use the fire extinguisher.
- ? Keep blankets, clothing, curtains, furniture and anything that could get hot and catch fire away from portable heaters.
- ? Plug heaters directly into the wall socket and unplug them when they are not in use.
- ? Keep items away from the stove that could catch fire.
- ? Use safety plugs in electrical outlets, especially if you have small children.

- ? Avoid overloading electrical outlets and running cords under carpet and Furniture.

Plan your escape routes

- ? Draw a floor plan of your home. Determine at least 2 ways to escape from every room of your home.
- ? If you must use an escape ladder, be sure everyone knows how to use it.
- ? Have a plan to escape if bars cover windows.
- ? Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.
- ? Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.
- ? Once you are out, stay out!
- ? Know how to call for emergency assistance.

Escape safely

- ? If you see smoke in your first escape route, use your second way out. If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to escape.
- ? If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is hot, use your second way out.
- ? If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.

You can help protect yourself and your family from the dangers of fire by planning **NOW** for an emergency. Be smart - be safe

For additional information on home fire safety or to become a Disaster Resistant Neighborhood please contact the local Chapter of the American Red Cross

Congress Passes Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

On October 10, in an apparent effort to reduce the growing demand for federal disaster assistance, Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Based on the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) initiative Project Impact, PL 106-390, emphasizes local community involvement in implementing long-term strategies to increase disaster resistance.

In passing this legislation, Congress recognized that a greater emphasis needs to be placed on identifying and assessing risks from natural disasters, implementing adequate measures to reduce losses, and ensuring that critical services and facilities will continue to function after a natural disaster.

The bill creates and funds a Pre-disaster Mitigation Fund which the president has the authority to grant Mitigation Assistance awards to state and local jurisdictions, for the purpose of mitigating local risks.

There are other elements to the bill, which is quite lengthy. The complete text can be obtained from the Library of Congress Web site at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>, or from FEMA.

FCC Opens Door To Increased Test Fees In 2001

The FCC has suspended its regulatory limit on the reimbursement fee for Amateur Radio examinations; and the ARRL VEC says a new \$10 test fee will go into effect January 1. The fee has been capped at \$6.65 since 1984.

The new higher fee reflects that fact that VECs are doing more work on behalf of the FCC than was originally envisioned, including data entry for all new and upgrade licensees, formerly done by FCC staffers. - excerpt from ARRL Newsletter, Vol. 19, No 48

Lahar Exercise Report

(Continued from page 3)

plex net was closed at 1040 Hours. MST Mobile traveled to a high point above the valley off of Canyon Road and released Madigan and the Pierce County EOC Station from the net.

KC7QNN, MST Mobile, returned to Good Samaritan Hospital and conducted a brief after action review with Gary Halpain and Jay Rothaus.

Summary:

The geography of Pierce County presents challenges when establishing a simplex net to cover all of our assigned health care facilities. While Good Samaritan Hospital has a well equipped and maintained station, the location of the hospital does not allow for simplex communications between all health care sites in Pierce County. Installation of the N7WGR repeater should go a long way towards establishing a solid communications system for Pierce County's MST.

Without a repeater or relays, the Good Samaritan site is unable to establish contact with King County ARES repeaters or with the King County EOC.

A radio propagation report for Pierce County is being drafted to supplement the planned repeater installation and to serve as a foundation for the county's MST frequency plan for MST activations. Based on information from this report and installation of the N7WGR repeater, future net operations for Pierce County will be able to reach all sites as well as provide a link into the King County EOC, and potentially, the stations located at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle as well.

Paul Dunn, KC7QNN

In King County, hospitals participating were Harborview Medical Center, as hospital control, St Francis in Federal Way, and Auburn Regional Medical Center. Additionally, there were communicators from various teams at the Auburn, Federal Way, and King Co EOCs. All exercise traffic was controlled by the Pierce Co

net control station.

Despite successful experiences in previous exercises, in this instance, the only stations which could communicate with any station in Pierce County were the hospitals in Auburn and Federal Way.

N7LSL acted as an exercise controller and observer for the exercise, and was mobile trying various high operating locations. There were a number of exercise messages that were to have been injected into the role-playing in order to stimulate a particular response. However, because of the inability to hear, much less communicate with, anyone in Pierce County, these messages could not be inserted. This was frustrating and disappointing. However, it provided some definite learning points.

Several messages were passed between King County EOC, Harborview, and N7LSL, and a few relays through the Federal Way and Auburn hospitals, but on the whole, the exercise results for King County were unsuccessful.

One bright note, was the successful transfer of information between Auburn EOC and King County EOC, via packet, concerning a busload of "evacuees" sent to Federal Way. Previous attempts at packet to the King County EOC have been unsuccessful, due to location and building configuration. In actuality, the receiving packet station was set up in the parking lot across from the EOC and runners delivered the message inside.

Thanks to the great teamwork and participation from members of the King, Kitsap, and Pierce Co Medical Services Teams, Federal Way ARC Emergency Response Team, Auburn RACES team, and Pierce Co ARES.

We will take what we learned in this exercise and build a better one next time.

Marina Zuetell, N7LSL

WWEMS Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon

The December 9 meeting of the team included an interesting presentation by Dr. Steve Scott of the US Public Health Service, and a pot-luck holiday luncheon enjoyed by all who attended.

In addition, the official Annual Meeting of Western Washington Emergency Medical Services was conducted. Marina, N7LSL, President, discussing elements of the revised bylaws, new membership categories, and a review of where the organization is going.

The non-profit corporation was formed in order to facilitate fundraising to support the various Medical Services operational teams, and to provide some publicity, recruiting, and standardization across the multiple counties and agencies the teams serve. The more formal business structure will make it easier to interact with the multiple health-care and governmental agencies that the teams work with.

The name of the corporation will be changed to Western Washington Medical Services Emergency Communications, which more accurately indicates what we do.

The original Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are being revised in order to more closely reflect the purpose and mission of the organization.

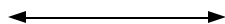
There will be several categories of membership, both voting and non-voting, with a new dues assessment, and membership requirements. This has been necessitated by the increasing cost of running the organization, especially publication costs.

The final revisions and more information will be available as soon as all documents have been reviewed and approved by the board of directors and the government entities which need to approve them.

Anyone who has questions or comments can contact Marina Zuetell, N7LSL, at: n7lsl@ar1.net

Around the Region

Paul Dunn, KC7QNQ, new MST emergency coordinator for Pierce Co., got off to a great start with putting together the Pierce Co portion of the Lahar exercise in October. Now he is working on developing a team of operators at each of the hospitals in Pierce Co., and recruiting new team members. He is also planning to schedule some training programs for the South Puget Sound area. These will be announced soon.



Portland Medical Services Team

A new Medical Services Team has formed in the Portland area, called HEART – Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Team. Michael Brooks, K7ESM, is the coordinator. They have a web site at: <http://www.qsl.net/k7esm/heart.html>

The new team held their first SET on November 18th and pictures are posted on their Web page.

Welcome to the hospital emergency communications community, HEART. It is nice to know we have another supporting organization to share ideas and resources with.



RADIO DEPOT

5963 Corson Ave S
Suite 176
Seattle, WA. 98108
800-291-9067 * 206-763-2936

Dave Roddy, N7KZN
owner

COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY 2001

Dates for the two-day Communications Academy have been set for April 21-22, 2001. The conference will be held again at the NOAA Campus Conference Center at Sand Point in Seattle.

Last year over 100 people attended the two days of training on Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, geologic hazards, and hands-on field communications.

The theme for this year's Academy will be **"Providing Disaster Communications: Amateur Radio in the 21st Century"**. This theme was selected by the IARU for World Amateur Radio Day 2001 on April 18th, to dispel the notion that technology have diminished the future role of the amateur services.

This year's conference plans to be bigger and better, so put the dates on your calendars, and use this as a team training event. Bring your Communications Van to display in the parking lot, and network with other emergency communicators from other teams and counties.

More information will be coming soon. Anyone with suggestions for topics and/or speakers, or who would like to volunteer to assist, should contact n7lsl@arrl.net.

Hope to see you all there .



FEMA MRV and Red Cross Disaster Services at Academy 2000

New location!!

EMERGENCY NETS

Washington State Emergency Net

Mon. - 6:30 p.m.
Sat. - 9:00 a.m.
3.987

Island Co. ARES Net
Sun - 9:00 p.m.
145.25 - /R

King Co. ARES Net
Sun. - 8:00 p.m.
Damage Assessment
Tues - 7:30 PM
146.820 - /R

Local Team Nets occur at
various times during the
week.

Kitsap Co. ARES Net
Sun. - 7:30 p.m.
145.430 - /R

Mason Co. ARES Net
Sun. - 7:00 p.m.
146.720 /R (103.5)

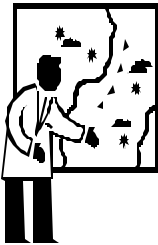
Pierce Co. ARES Net
Tues. - 7:00 p.m.
145.37 - /R

San Juan Co. ARES Net
Fri. - 8:00 p.m.
146.90 /R

Snohomish Co. ARES
Net
Sun. - 8:30 p.m.
146.920 - /R

Thurston Co. ARES Net
Tues. - 7:00 p.m.
147.36 + /R

(corrections to the Net list need)



2001 Medical Services Team Training Schedule

The following dates and topics are planned for the 2001 Medical Services Team Training Schedule. They are tentative and could change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please mark these dates in your calendar so you can plan to attend. Confirming notices will be mailed out prior to each class. Dates of other significant training events are included for your reference

- 2/3/01** **Personal and Family Preparedness** - possible joint training with Seattle ACS, Bellevue ACS
- 3/10/01 *Mike & Key Club Hamfest – Puyallup Fairgrounds*
- 3/24/01** **Orientation to the Hospital Environment –**
- 4/7-8/01 *King Co. Search & Rescue Spring Training Academy - McKnight Middle School - opportunity for First Aid, CPR, and Blood Borne Pathogens – AHA 2-year certificate*
- 4/21-22** **Communications Academy 2001** – NOAA Sand Point Conference Center
(we will try to do an NDMS exercise briefing sometime during the conference)
- 5/2-3/01** **NDMS Exercise** – S. Puget Sound and N. Puget Sound on separate days.
- 5/12/01** **Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS)**
Exercise Debriefing
- 6/16/01** **Introduction to Emergency Medical System** – Dr. Copass, Harborview
- 6/23-24/01 *ARRL Field Day –*
- 7/21-23 *Western Washington DX Club – Northwest DX Convention*
- 8/??/01** Summer Picnic – ARES and ACS teams
- 9/15/01** **Tactical Communications** – possible joint meeting with Seattle ACS
Briefing for October exercise
- 10/??/01 *King Co. Search & Rescue Fall Training Academy - McKnight Middle School - opportunity for First Aid, CPR, and Blood Borne Pathogens – AHA 2-year certificate*
- 10/??/01** **Fall Medical Services Team Exercise – Annual SET**
- 11/03/01** **Resource Acquisition and Logistics during Disasters** – possible joint meeting
Exercise debriefing
- 12/8/01** **Introduction to MCI and START**
Annual Business meeting, Election of officers, Holiday party



EMERG. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
12400 E MARGINAL WAY S
M/S ROC-1 – CNS
SEATTLE, WA. 98168

TIME VALUE MAIL

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Seattle, WA
Permit No. 5203

Important Dates for First Quarter 2001

2/3/01 **Personal and Family Pre-**
pared **ness** - Bellevue EOC – possi-
ble joint training with Seattle
ACS, Bellevue ACS

3/10/01 *Mike & Key Club Hamfest –*
Puyallup Fairgrounds
the *need volunteers to help staff*
booth.

3/24/01 **Orientation to the Hospital**
 Environment

Training Meeting

Joanne Jordan from Bellevue Emergency Management will present important information on **Personal and Family Preparedness** on Saturday, February 3, at the Bellevue Emergency Operations Center. We need to know that our families and homes are safe and secure, before we can become emergency responders in case of a major disaster. Planning and preparing ahead of time will help you and your family to be ready for that call-out.

Driving Instructions:

The address is 115021 Main St. It's at the intersection of 116th & Main - just west of the Bellevue City Hall in the police annex. From I-405 southbound, take the NE 8th exit, turn left (east) and cross over the freeway to 116th NE. Turn right and go south to Main St. Turn right into the parking lot. Police Annex is on the lower level.

From I-405 northbound, take the NE 4th exit, go east to 116th Ave NE. Turn right and go south to Main St. Turn right into the parking lot. Police Annex is on the lower level.

This should be an interesting program, and a good kick-off for the new year. Hope to see you all there.

Talk-in frequency is 146.42 simplex.